

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 15-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are amended. Claims 15-17 are added. The amendments and the added claims add no new matter. Claims 12-14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The cancellation of claims 12-14 renders these rejections moot.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,193,314 to Wormley et al. (hereinafter "Wormley"). The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wormley in view of JP-A-59001125 (hereinafter "JP '125"). The Office Action, on page 4, rejects claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wormley in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0163212 to Smith et al. (hereinafter "Smith"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Wormley teaches a grinding machine particularly adapted to produce blades and buckets of the kind used in turbines and other objects having complex curved surfaces (Abstract). In Wormley, an abrasive belt passes over a nose roller to make a line contact with the workpiece (Abstract). With reference to Fig. 5, the workpiece with which Wormley is concerned is "generally indicated at 44, including a blade portion 46 and a base 48 (col. 5, lines 13-14). As such, Wormley teaches a method for producing from a workpiece, a blade or a bucket for a turbine disc, but not "a finished disc." In fact, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the blades and/or buckets produced by the method of Wormley

are of the type that attach to an outer periphery of exemplary discs produced according to these claims.

Claim 1 recites a method for producing, from a workpiece, a finished disc for a gas turbine engine, the workpiece having a hub, and a disc extending radially outwardly from the hub the method including: forming a support surface on the hub; supporting a workpiece in a machine tool by means of the support surface in a manner which provides tool access to both axial faces of the disc; and performing a sequence of machining operations alternatively on opposite sides of the disc while maintaining support of the workpiece by the support surface. Wormley, in its disclosure of a grinding machine to produce blades and buckets for use in turbines, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or even to have suggested, the subject matter recited in independent claim 1.

Further, neither JP '125 nor Smith overcome the shortfalls in the application of Wormley to at least the subject matter of independent claim 1. As such, claims 2-11 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by Wormley, alone or in combination with the other applied references, for at least the respective dependence of these claims on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter which each of these claims recites.

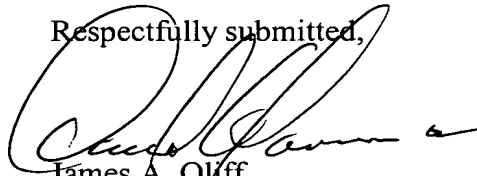
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wormley, or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wormley in combination with either of JP '125 or Smith, are respectfully requested.

Claims 15-17 depend from independent claim 1 as well. As such, claims 15-17 are also patentable over any combination of the applied references for at least their dependence on claim 1 as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that these claims recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 and 15-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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